

condition of comfort (including all the circumstances of food, clothing, shelter, medical aid, etc., etc., and of hardship), in which people live. If the condition of the slaves is not improved by emancipation (and those who oppose emancipation say it will be made vastly worse), their longevity will remain the same as it is now, and the proportion of births to the living being reduced to the ordinary proportion among the free, that increase of their numbers will, in my view, never cease, or be changed into a positive diminution.

Nothing is better established, either as a matter of fact, or as a matter of reasoning, than that, if two races in a condition of freedom are intermingled in the same community, it is the superior race which, by its greater command of the means of comfortable subsistence, will supplant the inferior. This happens in that same really beneficial order of nature, which is manifested in the animal and vegetable kingdoms. In man, this order can only be detected by the servitude of the inferior race.

So well is this understood, indeed, that, many of the apostles of Slavery found an argument upon it in favor of their system, addressed to the slaves themselves. It is "a God-given right," plausibly exclaims the Reverend Harper of South Carolina, that we "can preserve the negro." "The antagonism of races," says De Bow, "is working itself out in every country where two races are put in collision, by the quicker or slower extinction of the inferior or weaker race. The only exception to this rule which the world has ever seen, are the *beauties* of the *rescue and protection of the weaker race*!" [Resources of the South and West, vol. 2, page 203.]

Undoubtedly, the multiplication of the African race, unless we now witness it, is a serious element in determining what is practicable to be done. It is an important fact, but it is not a fixed fact. It is an optional fact.

We can have it otherwise, if we so will it; just to last and so far as slaves are emancipated, will the rate of increase of negroes diminish, and if emancipation becomes universal, they will cease to increase at all, and in all probability begin to decrease, even without the aid of measures of colonization.

The difficulty is, that it is not inherent and hopeless, but, curable, and by a simple and obvious remedy, and by a remedy to which, it is likely to be applied to some extent in and by the present course of events, with or without any pecuniary national determination to that effect.

In the condition of the institution of Slavery in this country, as this generation has known it, and prior to the present attempted revolution of the South, it involved so vast a property interest, that no man politically was expected that those who had the control of it would give it up. "Was ever any people," asked Senator Hammond of South Carolina, twenty years ago, "civized or savage persuaded by any argument, human or divine, to an earlier voluntary" so great a sum as one thousand millions of dollars.

Undoubtedly not, and when the one thousand millions became two thousand millions, and then three thousand millions, and so on, the numbers and the value of slaves, the case became still more palpably hopeless. Human nature is most undergo very radical changes before men can be moved by rhetoric, or persuaded by figures, to give up their fortunes.

Slave property may be restored to the high and giddy state in which it was one year ago. But that is not to be done, and it is not to be done, unless we are foreseen, or controlled, and the probabilities are strong, that it may be once unprofitable, and so cease to exist as property, by changes in the locality of great staples, and by the loss of security resulting from new conditions of public opinion.

If the indications in this direction are not to be trifled with, the time is near at hand when the question of terminating Slavery will become practical by the combination or decisive diminution of the great pecuniary interest which has hitherto upheld it. That has been the real difficulty in the way of emancipation, and if the real difficulty disappears, the imaginary ones will disappear also. If Slavery ceases to enrich men, the fund will come to exist, which has subtilized talent, ingenuity, energy, and pertinacity, to propagate delusions, absurd, that even habit and iteration can only partially account for their long success. We shall no longer hear that white men cannot labor at the South, in the face of the known truth that more white men than black men do actually labor there, and that even in New Orleans, it is by white men, and not by black men, that the severest bodily tasks are performed. We shall no longer hear that the Caucasians cannot flourish in America within the same latitudinal lines which have embraced for thousands of years the regions of his highest development, on the other side of the Atlantic. We shall no longer hear that emancipation will lose to the North the Southern trade which has enriched it, when we know well that that trade would be immeasurably increased, and the master was, with the admiralities and navies of the world, on the same side.

The Tax Levy was taken up, and Mr. Ely presented a report from the Special Committee on the subject, recommending a reduction in several of the items. The report is as follows:

**REPORT OF MR. ELY, CHAIRMAN OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON THE TAX LEVY FOR 1861.**

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of the propriety of reductions in the tax levy for the present year, reported:

**REPORT:** That they immediately entered upon the discharge of their duties by addressing to the head of each of the City and County Departments, the following letter:

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,** No. 7 City Hall, N.Y., Sept. 4, 1861.

SIR:—The undersigned Chairman of the Special Committee appointed by the Board of Supervisors to consider the propriety of reductions in the tax levy for the present year, submitted to the heads of the City and County Government, whether any reductions are practicable in the items of taxation for the present year, without impairing the revenue of the State, and in the opinion of the undersigned, unnecessary and manifestly inexpedient in the tax levy. There will probably be a sufficient balance remaining in the treasury to supply any such deficiencies, but should such balance prove insufficient, the deficiency can be supplied by the contributions of the General Fund, which is believed to be ample for such purposes. These deficiencies are all prospective, and need not be provided for until they exist.

The total reduction which your Committee would recommend as proper and practicable is as follows:

From General Expenditures..... \$62,000.00

Total..... \$62,000.00

**RECAPITULATION.**

Deficiencies in Taxes..... Appropriation..... Reduction.....

Deficit in Contract..... 27,000 00 20,000 00 7,000 00

Conveniences in V. R. & D. Departments..... 38,000 00 30,000 00 8,000 00

Lots for Police Stations, F. & E. Engines, &c. .... 50,000 00 40,000 00 10,000 00

Construction and Repairing Buildings..... 240,000 00 190,000 00 50,000 00

Lamps and Gas..... 35,000 00 20,000 00 15,000 00

Wharves, Piers and Ships..... 200,000 00 75,000 00 125,000 00

Belvoir Pavement, opening Streets, &c. .... 115,00 00 115,00 00

Total..... \$62,000.00

**DEFICIENCIES.**—Three hundred and nine thousand one hundred and seventeen dollars and ninety-two cents.—The fourth and last item in the Controller's classification, that of \$62,000.00 for the purpose of supplying deficiencies in the products of taxes for the year of the tax, is the only one which that class should be modified accordingly. Your answer just received expresses the precise case on your part that I should make an open order for the payment of the amount of the deficiency, and that the case of said proclination be so modified, held and construed as to conform with and not to be construed as a violation of the law. There will probably be a sufficient balance remaining in the treasury to supply any such deficiencies, but should such balance prove insufficient, the deficiency can be supplied by the contributions of the General Fund, which is believed to be ample for such purposes. These deficiencies are all prospective, and need not be provided for until they exist.

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Your Committee have limited themselves to reductions of the items above enumerated, and have omitted others equally extravagant and excessive, for the reason that these latter are so protected by State charters, and are not liable to be taxed, and in the opinion of the undersigned, unnecessary and variety of occupation, which true and intelligent labor would require.

We shall no longer hear that it is dangerous to leave men to their own devices, and that they are not fit to be employed.

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